

Indiana Veterans' Home under new interim leader

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Rob Clover is the interim superintendent of the Indiana Veterans' Home in West Lafayette. / Photo provided

911 remembered

Robert E. Clover, interim superintendent of the Indiana Veterans' Home, will deliver the Patriot Day keynote address today. Officially called Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, is designated as a day to remember the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. American flags are customarily flown at half staff. The program will begin at 11 a.m. in MacArthur Auditorium. The Indiana Veterans' Home is at 3851 N. River Road, West Lafayette. The home is also accessible off Soldiers Home Road about a half-mile north of Kalberer Road.

The new interim superintendent of the [Indiana Veterans' Home](#) will address community members during the home's annual remembrance of those killed or injured during the [Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks](#) on the

World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Rob Clover became the interim superintendent in July, according to Melissa Templeton, spokeswoman for the state-owned, long-term facility for veterans and their spouses in West Lafayette.

"Rob came to us from [Logansport State Hospital](#), where he was superintendent," Templeton said. "He is a 23-year Air Force veteran and was a health care administrator for the Air Force."

Clover accepted the temporary assignment effective July 22 at the request of the State Personnel Department and the [Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs](#), according to a [June 12 letter](#) from the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration.

While Clover is at the veterans home, the assistant superintendent at the state hospital is interim superintendent there.

The understanding is that Clover will return to Logansport once someone is hired to oversee the West Lafayette facility, according to the June 12 letter.

Melissa Durr was interim superintendent for 16 months before leaving in July to take an administrative position at a private facility in Fort Wayne, said Templeton.

Durr was appointed in March 2012 to replace Superintendent Tony Stewart who resigned after making controversial changes and privatizing some services during his three-year tenure.

The search for a permanent superintendent was deferred by former Gov. Mitch Daniels so that incoming [Gov. Mike Pence's](#) administration could make the hire, said Russ Eaglin, deputy director of veterans affairs.

“Basically, they waited until the new administration took over,” Eaglin said.

“We interviewed a few folks, and we decided to hire someone in an interim position until we can fill it permanently. Mr. Clover had some very good credentials and was available.”

Clover has been in charge for seven weeks, and Eaglin said the veterans affairs office likes what it has seen.

“We’re very happy with Rob,” Eaglin said. “He’s made some very positive changes along with our interim director of nursing ... some positive morale changes among the workforce and with our veterans.”

There are a few candidates for the superintendent position, said Eaglin, who acknowledged the search can be somewhat limited because the veterans affairs department wants someone who has health care credentials and is also a veteran.

Randy Fairchild, the [Tippecanoe County veterans service officer](#), said it takes a special person to succeed in the job.

“You need to know about health care, and at the same time get the residents to know that you care for them,” Fairchild said.

“You’ve got to be professional and know the ins-and-outs of Medicaid, Medicare and health care, and you’ve got to have an open door to let the residents know you’re there for them.”

The home at 3851 N. River Road provides nursing and domiciliary care for any veteran with at least one day of wartime service who has lived in Indiana for at least three years. The home is open to veterans and their spouses. As of Tuesday there were 250 residents, Templeton said.

Eaglin did not have a specific timeline for hiring a new veterans home superintendent. [James M. Brown](#), the Indiana director of veterans affairs, will make the appointment when a suitable candidate is found, he said.